

REMARKS

Applicant has carefully reviewed and considered the Office Action mailed on August 5, 2003, and the references cited therewith.

Claims 10, 24, 26-28, 41, and 43-46 are amended, claims 2-9, 23, and 35-40 are canceled as a result, claims 1, 10-22, 24-34, and 41-52 are now pending in this application.

Drawings

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The Office Action indicates that the flash memory cells recited in claims 1 and 5 must be shown.

FIG. 2 shows elements 202. The specification, page 9, lines 29 and 30, indicates that elements 202 includes flash memory cells 202. Thus, the drawings show the flash memory cells recited in claims 1 and 5. Applicant requests that the objection to the drawing be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claim Objections

Claims 5 and 35-37 were objected to under 37 CFR 1.75 as being substantial duplicates of claims 1-4.

Claims 5 and 35-37 are canceled.

§112 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 2-4, 7-9, and 35-40 were rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 2-4, 7-9, and 35-40 are canceled.

§102 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 6, 23-25, 27, and 28 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kim (U.S. Patent No. 5,569,948).

Claims 6 and 23 are canceled.

Claim 24 is amended to include elements similar to the elements of the allowable claim 26. Thus, claim 24 is also allowable. Applicant requests that the rejection of claim 24 be reconsidered and withdrawn and that claim 24 and its dependent claim 25 be allowed.

Claims 27 and 28 are amended to be dependent from the allowable claim 26. Thus, claims 27 and 28 are also allowable. Applicant requests that the rejection of claims 27 and 28 be reconsidered and withdrawn and that claims 27 and 28 be allowed.

§103 Rejection of the Claims

Claim 44 was rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kim in view of Juengling et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,858,865).

Claim 44 is amended to be dependent from the allowable claim 43. Thus, claim 44 is also allowable. Applicant requests that the rejection of claim 44 be reconsidered and withdrawn and that claim 44 be allowed.

Claims 10 and 47-52 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jeng (U.S. Patent No. 6,080,620) in view of Ema (U.S. Patent No. 5,561,623).

Claim 10 is amended to include elements similar to the elements of the allowable claim 46. Thus, claim 10 is also allowable. Applicant requests that the rejection of claim 10 be reconsidered and withdrawn and that claim 10 and its dependent claims 47-52 be allowed.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 26, 41-43, 45, and 46 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 26, 41-43, 45, and 46 are selectively rewritten. Thus, claims 26, 41-43, 45, and 46 are now in condition for allowance.

Claims 2-4 and 7-9 were indicated to be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 USC § 112 set forth in the Office Action. Claims 2-4 and 7-9 are canceled.

Applicant acknowledges the allowance of claims 1, 11, 12, and 29-34.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's representative (612) 373-6969 to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743

Respectfully submitted,

THOMAS A. FIGURA

By his Representatives,

SCHWEGMAN, LUNDBERG, WOESSNER & KLUTH, P.A.

P.O. Box 2938

Minneapolis, MN 55402

(612) 373-6969

Date

11/5/03

By


Viet V. Tong

Reg. No. 45,416

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 5 day of November, 2003.

Name

Tina Kohut

Signature

Z. L. L.